AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer comprising:

an elongate shaft;

a cutting head rotatably mounted on one end of the elongate shaft;

at least one cutting member which extends from the cutting head;

a barrier which is capable of being used by an operator to move vegetation away from a path swept out by the cutting member when it rotates, characterized in that the barrier is pivotally mounted about a single pivot axis on the string trimmer and, when the cutting head is rotating in a flat position, is capable of pivoting from a position above the path swept out by the cutting member to a position below the path swept out by the cutting member without passing through the path swept out by the cutting member, and is able to pivot from a first position where it is located on one side of the elongate shaft to a second position where it is located on the other side of the elongate shaft.

2. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the axis of the pivot is substantially perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the cutting head when the cutting head is in a flat cutting position.

3. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the axis of pivot of the barrier is substantially perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the cutting head when the cutting head is in a vertical edge cutting position.

4. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting through at least 270°.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier has suitable dimensions so that it is capable of surrounding an edge of the path swept out by the cutting member when it is rotating.

7. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a position wherein it projects forward of the string trimmer.

8. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a position where it projects downwardly from the string trimmer.

9. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a positioning in which it projects rearward from the string trimmer.

10. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein there is further provided a guard, the barrier being capable of pivoting to a position where it surrounds a rear of the guard.

11. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the barrier is pivotally mounted on the guard.

12. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein there is further provided a guard, the barrier being capable of pivoting to a position where the guard surrounds at least part or all of the barrier.

13. (Currently Amended) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier includes opposite end portions adjacent a pair of ~~the~~ pivot ends and is pivotally mounted on the string trimmer at its said opposite end portions by pivot mechanisms.

14. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier can be latched in a plurality of predetermined angular positions.

15. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the barrier can be latched in six predetermined angular positions.

16. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier is in the form of a band which is pivotally mounted at each of its ends.

17. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer as claimed in Claim 16, where the band curves from one pivot point around to the other pivot point.

18. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer, comprising:

an elongate shaft;

a cutting head rotatably mounted on one end of the elongate shaft;

at least one cutting member which extends from the cutting head;

a barrier formable as a band having a first edge and a second edge defining an arc, and a distally separatable pair of pivotable ends, the barrier being used by an operator to move vegetation away from a path swept out by the cutting member when it rotates;

the barrier being pivotally mounted on said string trimmer about a single axis in a manner where it can pivot from a first position above a path swept out by the cutting member to a position where it is below a path swept out by the cutting member without passing through the path swept out by the cutting member when the cutting head is rotating in a flat cutting position.

19. (Previously Presented) The string trimmer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the barrier is pivotally mounted on a guard of the string trimmer.

20. (Previously Presented) The string trimmer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the barrier is mounted on the string trimmer.

21. (Previously Presented) The string trimmer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the barrier is mounted on the string trimmer in such a manner that it can be latched in a plurality of angular positions in relation to the string trimmer.

22. (Previously Presented) The string trimmer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the barrier is pivotally mounted at each of its ends to a guard of the string trimmer.

23. (Previously Presented) The string trimmer as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the band is pivotally coupled at first and second pivot points and wherein the band curves from the first pivot point to the second pivot point.

24. (Previously Presented) A string trimmer comprising:

an elongate shaft;

a cutting head rotatably mounted on one end of the elongate shaft;

at least one cutting member which extends from the cutting head;

a guard supportable adjacent to the cutting head, the guard surrounding at least a portion of a path swept out by the cutting member; and

a barrier which is capable of being used by an operator to move vegetation away from the path swept out by the cutting member when it rotates, the barrier being pivotally mounted to the guard about a single pivot axis through the guard.

25. (Previously Presented) The string trimmer of Claim 24, wherein the guard is capable of pivoting from a position above the path swept out by the cutting member to a position below the path swept out by the cutting member without passing through the path swept out by the cutting member.

26. (Previously Presented) The string trimmer of Claim 24, wherein the guard comprises a pair of distally separable pivot ends, each of the pivot ends supportable about the single pivot axis.